

Eco-Community Dialogues Newsletter

Nancy Nelson, Editor

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The Conservation Pledge

I pledge to protect and preserve the natural resources of the planet Earth, and promise to promote education so we may become caretakers of our air, water, land, forest, and wildlife.

Letter to the Medford Tribune

YES ON MEASURE 15-119 safeguards Rogue Taste and the local Thrive economy. In 2012 Syngenta Ag was criminally charged in GERMANY for concealing the fact that Syngenta GMO corn killed cattle.

Syngenta settled in the USA for \$105 million after it was discovered the company had contaminated the drinking supply of 52 million Americans in more than 2,000 water districts with its herbicide Atrazine.

Last month the President of the NORTH AMERICAN EXPORT GRAIN TRADERS called upon Syngenta to stop selling GMO seed to U.S. farmers. 2014 exports are down 85% with \$425 million in rerouting and lost sales to CHINA for rejection of Syngenta cargo.

OREGON is a People's Initiative state, and it is a human right to protect your body from what is harmful. --Nancy Nelson, Ashland

To Be, or Not to Be GMO

According to Lisa Richardson, Executive Director of the South Dakota Corn Growers Association, the heartland's GMO cornfields are totally dependent upon chemicals, unlike USDA Certified Organic crops that use no chemical fertilizers whatsoever. This is the first year the Farm Belt may be short of having enough chemical fertilizer by rail transport for planting deadlines. What's great about this problem is that people could, you know, restore the prairie and wetland ecosystems or transition over to non-GMO permaculture practices that help to sustain the planet's fragile ecosphere. The WORLD WILDLIFE FUND (WWF) cites conversion of wetland habitat over to large amounts of chemicals as the reason for biodiversity loss, erosion, and soil degradation.

The 4th of July Parade Everywhere

Moms all across AMERICA want food that is free from GMOs. It is a human right to protect our bodies from harm. Sign up today to join a **4th of July Parade** to willingly **march for independence from GMOs**. All supporters welcome. Food transparency messages will be seen by millions of people on the sidelines everywhere. Visit www.momsacrossamerica.com.

Spurious Sweeteners

Diet sodas are made by fermenting corn and soy. AMERICA's largest GMO Crops are corn and soy. That means that MONSANTO & COMPANY who developed ASPARTAME might be making your GMO diet soda sickly sweet. The sweetener called EQUAL, contains ASPARTAME. GMO anything is hard to digest. But just listen to this. Can you hear the sound of the beverage bloating before you taste it.

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May 9, 2014

Page 2

I don't know if you knew that 90% of SPLENDA's chemical compound can NOT be broken down by digestive bacteria. SPLENDA (SUCRALOSE) leaves your body as human waste entering sewage systems. Water treatment plants can NOT break it down either, so SPLENDA ends up in the Oceans. Researchers with the *University of North Carolina* found out last year, in 2013, that the majority of SPLENDA ends up in the *Gulf Stream*, then it flows into the ATLANTIC OCEAN. From there SPLENDA flows into the Oceans of AFRICA and EUROPE. The Ocean has lots of currents.

SACCHARIN is a petroleum derivative listed on the EPA's HAZARDOUS CHEMICAL PRODUCTS LIST until 2010. The EPA removed it from their list in 2010 because the *Food and Drug Administration* (FDA) removed SACCHARIN's warning labels. Aren't you grateful to *Michael Taylor*, the FDA Food Czar. Maybe Cyanide tastes sweet, too. What's sweet flavor might be bitter to the belly. Would you still drink it had there been a required skull and crossbones on the front of packaging. It is written that people perish for lack of knowledge. Today we'd say lack of transparency in food labeling.

(Sources: March 29, 2014, DAILY TIDINGS, "What are the effects of sugar on the environment?", by E-the environmental magazine; www.wwf.org, "Fake Sweetener Splenda fills our oceans, scientists find"; The Holy Bible)

Supreme Thumbs Up for the Clean Air Act

It is the EPA's job to make sure all Americans have clean air to breathe. Any endorsement expenses are a public health victory!

Big Industry has always challenged rules, but the SUPREME COURT is firm that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) can enforce THE CLEAN AIR ACT even if *Gina McCarthy* is flex flow about enforcing the SUPREME COURT verdict. The nation's highest court clarified that the EPA has the authority to implement the CLEAR AIR ACT at state levels in order to control downwind air-borne pollution.

The SUPREME COURT gave slack to the EPA to get on with setting federally imposed regulations to effectively halt the destruction of the Planet because of smokestack emissions. The *Constitution of the United States of America* has three branches of check-and-balance. Coal-fired power-plant emissions are responsible for about 40 % of AMERICA's carbon emission that wind variables blow across state lines. The air pollution harms states that are downwind from power plants they can't control. Now those downwind states will have the EPA's leverage to hold the upwind power plants liable for their emissions.

Thank You to the Judicial Branch of the *Constitution of the United States of America*. The SUPREME COURT's judiciary prudence keeps both the *Executive* and *Legislative* branches in check. Now the 27 *Appalachian* and *Midwestern* states' soot and smog must face their selfishness in destroying the breath of Life on Planet EARTH.

Man is an air-breathing creature. The Hawaiians have a word for it. "Aloha" means "My breath goes with you". The breath of Life is with us all the days of our lives upon this living EARTH. The alive cannot NOT breathe and live. Therefore whatever diminishes oxygen and pure air quality should be considered a crime against humanity. Wouldn't it be wonderful if new energy innovations are environmentally friendly to the EARTH, that *Great Mother* of us all.

(Sources: May 6, 2014, DAILY TIDINGS, "Court ruling gives EPA legal backing to fight climate change" by the May 1, SAN JOSE MERCURY NEWS; April 30, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, Nation-World, "Court upholds EPA rule on cross-state pollution" by Dina Cappiello and Sam Hananel, The Associated Press, WASHINGTON)

Spur Yourself with Love

Could the fatherly side of *President Obama* actually feel obligated to bring joy to the fishes in the deep blue sea, for Generations X, Y, and Z. The future generations are here now. Generations X and Y are already with us. So is Climate Shift. Generation Z is arriving when all sea creatures in the Planet's food chain are at peril from growing ocean acidity.

May 9, 2014

Page 3

The NORTHWEST is in a race with the clock because rising sea level high tides will inundate 140,000 acres of OREGON and WASHINGTON coastline that lies within 3.3 feet in elevation. The sea is expected to rise up to four feet higher than it now is, by 2100.

The third edition of THE NATIONAL CLIMATE ASSESSMENT, mandated by CONGRESS, concluded that our children are doomed unless we reduce our carbon footprint. The good news is that is an option that is still possible. The NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES concurs that there must be no dilly dallying around now that the dots have been connected. The findings come in the nick of time for everyone, everywhere to reduce our local and regional carbon dioxide emissions. We've got to stop sloughing off. *Future generations need a habitable homeland.*

(Sources: May 7, 2014, MAIL TRIBUNE, "*Climate change risks increase in the Northwest*", the Associated Press, SEATTLE; May 7, 2014 DAILY TIDINGS, "*Federal report warming disrupts American's lives*" by Seth Borenstein, the Associated Press)

May 10th is World Trade Day

What if our precious Mother EARTH were valued more highly than exploitation. What a fine world it would be. But corporate globalization misleads governments in *Today's World*. Nothing is as certain as human change when citizens are civic-minded. How about your signing online petitions, writing letters to CONGRESS, organizing community events, and boycotting transnational companies that put *Profits and Patents* above *People* and the *Planet*, resulting in the man-made Mess we're in.

Did you know that the *North American Free Trade Agreement* (NAFTA) forced over two million corn farmers off their land in MEXICO due to subsidized U.S. corn. Free-trade agreements harm small-scale *Family Farmers* largely because of the U.S. *Farm Bill*. The U.S. population is taxed. The American People's taxes subsidize large-scale global companies doing land grabs. GMOs are used as a weapon to take over other countries. The *U.S. Farm Bill* favors their lobbyists who promote policies that harm consumers, farm workers, and Family Farms.

The *United Nations* (UN) stance was to name this entire year the *2014 International Year of Family Farming* to counter the GMO fairy tale myth about GMOs feeding the world, which the UN asserts is a gross misconception. The UN and the FAIR WORLD PROJECT are trying to safeguard the world's small-scale *Family Farmer* underdogs by speaking truth to power and tracking the twists and turns of the *Trans Atlantic Free Trade Agreement* (TAFTA) and the *Trans Pacific Partnership* (TPP).

In regards to the TPP, AMERICAN and JAPANESE trade negotiators failed to reach an agreement on the pan-Pacific trade pact ahead of the summit. Mr. Obama's hastily scheduled his own arrival on April 24, 2014, to increase his clout with Tokyo, but the wary Japanese refused to commit to a deadline for eliminating trade barriers to the exploitation of 40% of EARTH's resources by 30% of the world's traders in 12 PACIFIC RIM countries excluding CHINA.

The toughest sticking points remain because JAPAN wants to protect their own farm products from being outcompeted by U.S. agricultural goods demanding total access to the Japanese market. The total agreement reached for JAPAN to sell itself short is NONE after two days in 17 hours of talks. It's problematic that AMERICA is trying to bully JAPAN into greater concessions than the free-trade deal JAPAN just made separately with AUSTRALIA, on their own terms.

JAPAN played *Canberra* against *Washington* in a bid to get better terms for JAPAN because JAPAN is faced with having to concede acceptance of agricultural products from both AMERICA and AUSTRALIA. These foreign products will compete for market share of Japanese products in JAPAN and that puts their nation at a disadvantage. Other parties to the TPP also take issue over government procurement to foreign business curtailment of their state-owned enterprises. Other countries see patent protections of intellectual property as a threat.

IRELAND, PORTUGAL, SPAIN, and SWEDEN already get by without energy dependence upon RUSSIA. The rest of the *European Union* (EU) is not yet fully energy self-sufficient. That's why the UKRAINE events play into AMERICA's hands.

By making the IBERIAN PENINSULA a major supply route of gas from across the ATLANTIC to the rest of EUROPE, the EU is bringing their environmental standards down closer to AMERICA's lower standards of practice.

The *Transatlantic Trade and Investment Partnership* (TTIP) agreement has to do with reducing the energy price gap between *Europeans* who pay less for energy than the *American People* pay. The long and the short of it is that the profiteers want to profit by exporting the shale gas boom to EUROPE. In order to export their liquefied natural gas, infrastructure developers would profit. There is the smell of money in capturing profits from economic integration between the world's two greatest economies.

Some countries have already banned shale-gas extraction and President Obama would have felt frustrated had the EU passed a ban on shale-gas extraction in EUROPE. Under supply-and-demand shock, the EU compromised their support for local energy producers. That's bad news for nations that like to use their energy supplies in way that run counter to TTIP interests. The unspoken message is that their values shall wax cold when their influence wanes.

The environmental exploitation calls for a single *en masse* approval of building transport facilities and terminals here and that means the *U.S. Energy Department's* individual reviews for LNG export facilities would have to be scrapped by the *Federal Energy Regulatory Commission's* expediting all energy-charter projects.

President Obama already approved six LNG terminals. But for LNG shipments across the ATLANTIC OCEAN to occur, the *Federal Energy Regulatory Commission* would first need to approve the construction before such construction could commence. Meanwhile it's no gift to Europeans to have AMERICA's natural gas go into the open market if U.S. export restrictions are lifted for gas and oil.

(Sources: Spring 2014, FAIR WORLD PROJECT, "Engaging in Trade Policy Transformation This World Fair Trade Day!" by Dana Geffner; <http://fairworldproject.org/overview/free-trade-agreements/>; www.fairworldproject.org/get-involved/actions-campaigns/; www.behindthebrands.org/en/-/media/Download-fiiles/bp166-behind-brands-260213-en.ashx; April 11, 2014 THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "U.S. Tokyo Fail to Seal Trade Pact Before Summit" by Mitsuru Obe; April 23, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, "Send a Message to Putin With a Trans-Atlantic Energy Pact" by Bruno Macaes)

Carbon Footprint of Pets

The most obvious issue with pet ownership is *Global Warming*. The carbon footprint of eleven billion or more house pets is a scary equation that must be factored into public policy. In light of *Climate Change* profligate consumption of dwindling natural resources must trend downward around the world. Pet accoutrements and pet healthcare take away from the EARTH and are part of the over-consumption of EARTH's resources.

While gourmet pet food and special pet "treats" are fed to cats and dogs, UNICEF deplores that 10.9 million children under five-years old die each year from malnutrition. perhaps Man had best NOT own other sentient beings.

(Sources: February 18, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, Health & Wellness, "Cute and Cuddly, but Watch That Cat's Teeth" by Anna Mathews; Brian T. Carlsen; Aaron Glatt; William Schaffner, CDC; Jeffrey L. Jones; Robert H. Yolken; Sandra B. Barker; and *The Cure to All Diseases*, by Dr. Hulda Clark; United Nations Population Fund, www.unfpa.org; UNICEF)

May 9, 2014

Page 5

All Shook Up

A strong magnitude 6.3 tremor 480 miles north of Bangkok, THAILAND. According to the Thai seismological bureau, the epicenter was 4.3 miles underground in Chiang Rai province, with reports of sinkholes in a 70-mile radius around the epicenter.

(Source: May 6, 2014, THE WALL STREET JOURNAL, World News, "Magnitude 6.3 Earthquake Rattles Northern Thailand, Myanmar", by Nopparat Chaichalearmmongkol)

This is Hope

Since it is time to decrease the negative environmental impacts on NORTH AMERICA's ecosystems and native species, you might want to choose making a positive difference. The American People are rapidly turning away from the *Standard American Diet*, lifestyle, and philosophy that embodied environmental degradation.

Delicious Living's Editor in Chief, *Elisa Bosley*, shares that three YALE STUDENTS partnered with local natural retailers in New Haven, CONNECTICUT. The *Elm City Market* and the *Edge of the Woods Natural Market* funded a full-size billboard—EAT FAD-FREE: BROCCOLI VS. KALE—on Interstate 91. Just suppose that were the biggest sign you ever saw.

How soon will you to read the book, *THIS IS HOPE*, by author *Will Anderson*. If that wows you, it is also encouraging to learn about the thriving Vega Community who share health and wellness successes at www.thriveforward.com and www.vegasport.com.

According to the May 2014 TASTE FOR LIFE News Bites, researcher *Yoko Yokoyama*, has informed REUTERS HEALTH that switching to a vegetarian diet lowers the risk for many health problems. You might not have thought about it before now, but a great idea for June graduates is to gift the book, *WHY WE LOVE DOGS, EAT PIGS, AND WEAR COWS*, by author *Melanie Joy*. Plant-based eating is surging in popularity!

If your business establishment doesn't yet offer vegan products or services, but want to, and need help, visit www.roguevalleyvegans.com/local-business to learn more. The *Rogue Valley Vegans* will host an event at your establishment if you offer at least three vegan options on your menu. It's WIN-WIN for your restaurant or product line to be mentioned as outstanding via *Rogue Valley Vegans* enews, educational outreach events, social networking, and website, if you live in Jackson County, OREGON.

One may also subscribe to the magazine, "*American Vegan, Ahimsa Lights the Way*" by calling 856.694.2887 or see www.americanvegan.org. The American Vegan Society is a nonprofit educational organization. At the very least, just suppose you owed it to yourself to request the starter kit, "*Go Vegetarian Go Vegan!*" at www.PETA.org or call 757.622.PETA.

(Sources: February 24, 2014, JOURNAL OF THE AMERICAN MEDICAL ASSOCIATION's Network Journals, "*Vegetarian Diets Associated with Lower blood Pressure*"; February 24, 2014, REUTERS HEALTH, "*Vegetarian Diets May Lower Blood Pressure*" by Shereen Jegtvig ; April 2014, *DELICIOUS LIVING*, "*Green Rehab*" by *Elisa bosley*)

A Bicycle-Friendly place

Are you wondering which city in AMERICA was awarded the *Most Improved Bicycle Friendly City*. Did you guess that *Ashland*, OREGON, won! The *League of American Bicyclists* gave the gold rating distinction as a bicycle-friendly place, with *Ashland* now aspiring to a future platinum award, which would be the highest award.

(Source: April 23, 2014, DAILY TIDINGS, "*Ashland likes bikes*" by John Darling)

Plant An Organic Home Garden

You could reduce your carbon footprint by growing your own organic food. When you plant a kitchen garden, the only energy required to transport the food into your kitchen is your own two feet. Imagine having fresh ingredients on your patio deck or yard. Kitchen scraps are recycled by composting them. Best of all is the peace of mind from knowing you are eating real food, rather than biological pesticide meals or fake synthetic biology stuff that contains who knows what *Genetically Modified Organisms* (GMOs).

A person may buy organic seeds to plant, because other seeds and plants may have been pre-treated with pesticides that kill pollinators. *Bee Action* is a campaign of FRIENDS OF THE EARTH. Visit www.BeeAction.org to learn how to help the honey bees. For starters, one could avoid products containing ACETOMIPRID, CLOTHIANIDIN, DINOTEFURAN, IMIDACLOPRID, or THIAMETHOXAM.

Becoming bee-friendly is auspicious. A person could plant bee-friendly plants as ornamentals in the vicinity of your kitchen garden. Some are quite pretty and could be planted near-by to your edible food, or in patio pots. You might want to have some *Aster*, *Black-Eyed Susan*, *Blazing Star*, *Caltrop*, *Creosote Bush*, *Currant*, *Elder Flower*, *Goldenrod*, *Huckleberry*, *Joe Pye*, *Lupine*, *Oregon Grape*, *Penstemon*, *Purple Coneflower*, *Rabbitbush*, *Rhododendron*, *Snowberry*, *Stonecrop*, *Sunflower*, *Wild Buckwheat*, *Wild Lilac*, *Willow*, or *Woodland Sage* at the corners of your property.

(Source: www.BeeAction.org)

The One Year Anniversary

Did you know that I have been writing one *Eco-Community Dialogues* newsletter every week since May 23, 2013, as a FREE community service. What you might not have realized before now is that the set of over 52 newsletters of about six-pages each is available from the *A Street print & Copy* shop across from ACE Hardware, in Ashland, OREGON.

The Print shop only charges for paper and ink or a little service fee to download the entire PDF file onto people's thumb drives to read off their computers and save paper and ink. You may want to obtain a complete set and pass it forward to your family and friends.

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